

Message Text

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40

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /115 W

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R 061135 Z APR 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WSADC 2863

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG US PGOV MARR

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS NOTES

1. ALTHOUGH SADAT' S MEETING WITH CABINET APRIL 4 DOMINATES PRESS HEADLINES APRIL 5, EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPERS GIVE PROMINENT SPACE ON PAGE ONE TO DEBATE WHICH REPORTEDLY OCCURRED BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO AND SENATOR FULBRIGHT AT MEETING SENATE FORRELS COMMITTEE APRIL 4. AHRAM REPORTS " CLASH" BETWEEN SISCO AND FULBRIGHT CONCERNING US AID TO ISRAEL, GIVES LONG QUOTES FULBRIGHT' S REMARKS AGAINST CONTINUATION OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAELIS. AHRAM ALSO EMPHASIZES SISCO' S " PESSIMISM" CONCERNING POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVEMENT IN ME SITUATION, AS WELL AS HIS REMARKS TO EFFECT THAT RECENT SADAT SPEECH FORETELLS OF NO CHANGE IN US/ EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. AHRAM AND GUMHURIYYA ALSO REPORT SISCO AS HAVING

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SAID THAT " WE ARE READY TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT ANYTIME WITHOUT PRIOR CONDITIONS." AKHBAR CONTAINS EDITORIAL ON SISCO/ FULBRIGHT DEBATE, UNDERSCORING IMPORTANCE OF FULBRIGHT' S REMARKS AS HAVING POINTED UP WEAKNESS OF USG CLAIMS THAT MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL IS AIMED AT MAKING ISRAEL MORE FLEXIBLE. AKHBAR ASSERTS THAT US ARMS DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL HAS PROMPTED ISRAELI LEADERS, SUCH AS DAYAN, TO STATE THAT PEACE DOES NOT INTEREST THEM BUT EXPANSION DOES (SIC).

2. AS REPORTED BY APRIL 5 PRESS, MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF GOE CABINET MEETING APRIL 4 APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN EMPHASIS THAT TASK OF RECONSTRUCTION MUST PARALLEL THE BATTLE FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE AND RESTORATION OF LAND. MININFO GHALEB EXPLAINED TO PRESS FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING THAT SADAT EXPRESSED FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN PEOPLE OF EGYPT, WHO WOULD BE THE JUDGE OF ALL ACTIONS.

3. WITHOUT EXPLANATION, APRIL 5 PRESS STATES THAT PRESIDENTIAL DECREE WAS ISSUED APRIL 4 REORGANIZING PRESIDENCY. NEW DEPARTMENT WAS CREATED TO ORGANIZE AND COORDINATE MATTERS SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT; IT WILL BE HEADED BY HAFEZ ISMAIL, WHO WILL ALSO RETAIN HIS POSITION AS PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS.

4. PREPARATIONS FOR THE BATTLE.

A. AT END OF LAST WEEK, PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT MOCK AIR RAIDS WERE TO BE CARRIED OUT IN VARIOUS EGYPTIAN PROVINCES, INCLUDING CAIRO AND GIZA. APRIL 5 PRESS NOTES THAT " SILENT RAIDS" ARE TO CONTINUE THROUGHOUT WEEK OF APRIL 7-13, PRIOR TO EXERCISES UNDER " ACTUAL AIR RAID CONDITIONS," DURING WHICH SIRENS WILL BE ACTIVATED AND ELECTRICITY TURNED OFF IN DISTRICTS OF GREATER CAIRO. PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED THAT MININT SALEM ATTENDED SOME MOCK RAIDS, AND HAS GIVEN TALKS TO VARIOUS MEMBERS OF CIVIL DEFENSE APPARATUS.

B. IN POSSIBLY RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MININT SALEM ON APRIL 3 ISSUED SERIES OF DECREES STIPULATING STIFF PENALTIES FOR THEFTS COMMITTED DURING AIR RAIDS, DAMAGE TO PUBLIC PROPERTY, OR THEFT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT. ANOTHER DECREE DEFINED THE WORD " WEAPON" FOR PURPOSES OF CRIMINAL LAW (IN EFFECT, VIRTUALLY ANY SHARP INSTRUMENT) AND STIPULATED PENALTIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO CARRY SUCH " WEAPONS". ANOTHER

DECREE DEALT WITH APPLICATION OF PENAL CODE TO INDIVIDUALS WHO LEASE PROPERTY TO MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL. INTERESTINGLY, ALL DECREES WERE ISSUED AS MILITARY MEASURES BY SALEM IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEPUTY MILITARY GOVERNOR- GENERAL.

C . APRIL 6 PRESS BANNERS REMARKS BY WARMIN ISMAIL DURING LATTER' S VISIT APRIL 5 TO ARMED FORCES UNITES, ISMAIL SAID THAT EGYPT CONTINUES PREPARATIONS FOR BATTLE AND EGYPT' S ARMY WILL FIGHT WITH ALL DETERMINATION. HE DECLARED THAT SADAT WOULD VISIT ARMED FORCES SHORTLY. ISMAIL STATED THAT ISRAEL WOULD ATTEMPT TO SPREAD LIE THAT SHE CANNOT BE DEFEATED; BUT, HE SAID, THIS IS NOT TRUE. HE WARNED OFFICERS AND TROOPS AGAINST ENEMY RUMORS AIMED AT WEAKENING EGYPT' S DETERMINATION. ISMAIL PRAISED SYRIAN ARMED FORCES, WHICH HE VISITED EARLIER IN WEEK, FOR THEIR LEVEL OF TRAINING AND MORALE.
GREENE

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